



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

62 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2011

Volume 61 Number 11

www.phil-mont.org

November 2011



N3FH, Ray Heffernan, SK

(*de KB3IV*) Received two emails from Jack, WA3BXH on Monday October 24.

Ray has been visiting relatives in the Phoenix AZ area for the past few weeks. At dinner before he was scheduled to return, he became ill, and was taken to a local hospital and then transferred to the Arizona Heart Hospital where an aneurysm on the arch of his aorta was discovered. While treating the aneurysm with medication, he developed an infection at an IV site in his arm. Unfortunately, the infection was an antibiotic resistant strain of staph known as MRSA. The infection led to some kidney failure requiring emergency dialysis.

Early Sunday, Ray suffered a cardiac arrest from a blood clot partially blocking his aorta. He was resuscitated and rushed to the operating room for emergency surgery to remove the blockage and repair his aneurysm. A second emergency surgery was required late last evening to restore blood flow to one of his legs.

I flew to Arizona yesterday with Ray's son and daughter to help them through this difficult time. We were able to see him for a few moments after he returned to the ICU from the second surgery. His vital signs were good and he is unconscious in a sedated state, however we are hopeful. It will be a few days before we learn more, as the plan is to leave him sedated to allow his body some time to heal.

Am sorry to report N3FH as SK following multiple cardiac arrests this morning. Ray passed @ 11:50 hrs pacific. I will have more info later.

Jack,
WA3BXH

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862 Labels and mailing: KB3IV Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.		Directors: W3AOK (11) WA3KIO (11) N3XKE (11) KB2ERL (12) W3STW (12) WU3I (12) ND3B (A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV
Committees Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV		Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	
	DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE	Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK	Scholarship: W3RM Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: N3MT

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB3IV Ed Masarsky 310 Saw Mill Ln. Horsham PA 19044 kb3iv@comcast.net
Vice Pres: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net
Sec: KB3MIV Jen Miller 9427 Kirkwood Rd. 1st Fl. Phila 19114 jencaz@verizon.net
Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...

I can't believe how fast this year has gone by. Only about eight shopping weeks left until the holidays, so get your wish list ready. As I have been telling you, the bands are calling out to us, "Work that DX". I have been doing some mobile DXing with my new Tarheel screwdriver antenna. It has been working quite well and will be my salvation when I have to give up my stealth wire antennas mounted under the roof of my current QTH. N3GLU and I will be moving to a new location, which does not have the antenna possibilities that our present location affords. If band conditions are extra special during a blizzard, I will shovel a path to my car and fire up the radio and the heater. Aren't we all a little crazy when it comes to our hobby?

This month we will hold our annual Old Timer's Night as part of the November PMRC meeting on Nov. 9. Take a moment to think of any club member not able to make it to the meeting on their own and offer to pick them up and join in the camaraderie at the meeting. We are always glad to be regaled with their tales of what Ham Radio was really about in the days when you had to build your own station from spare parts.

Last month I asked you to say "yes" when called to serve our club. I was pleased to hear the response from some members to join us on the Board of Directors. We will present the slate of officers for the December election and entertain any other nominations from the floor. Thank you to all current and future officers for your dedication.

Finally, just a reminder that we will be holding the Annual Auction Fest at our January 9, 2012

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meeting. Last year's event was the most productive for buyers, sellers and the Club Scholarship Fund that we have ever had. Save the date.

Sharon and I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

de Ed, KB3IV

Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes

November Birthdays

- 01 Brandon Szalai - KB3VYD
- 05 Al Tribble - W3STW

- 12 Arnold Sadwin - KC2HX

- 14 Bill Nichelson - W3KOC
- 15 Edythe Victor (XYL WA2DTW)
- 19 Brad Swanson - N3GLH

- 20 Bob Gargano - N3YGY
- 22 Bill Popovic - W3AOK
- 23 Ted Hassell - KB3HAQ
- 24 Samuel Leidy - KF3G
Delores Policarpo (XYL N3PP)

- 27 Mel Toren - N2MT
- 29 Bob Nicotero - KB2ERL
Betty Walmsley (XYL W3DO)

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:
 80 Full Paid Members
 8 Family Members
 6 Youth Members
 1 Honorary Member



***This month's Thursday evening VE session
is on the 17th due to the holiday.
As always, many thanks to our VE team!***

From the Secretary

PMRC General Meeting Minutes, 10/12/2011

Ed, KB3IV, club president called the meeting to order at 2010 hours. After a hearty welcome to members and guests, Ed called on Club Treasurer Dick, W3RM, for his report.

Dick reports that bills for repeater system upgrading and repairs were paid and the treasury remains in great shape.

Dick extended words of welcome to Stuart, KB1QW, on joining the club this month. Stuart's application for membership was reviewed and approved by the BoD during the October 5th BoD meeting. Congratulations Stuart.

On behalf of the year 2011 FAR scholarship recipients Dick relayed words of thanks to the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club. See the October 2011 Blurb for more information.

Copious amounts of kudos from the Club to Dick for his administrative effort and time spent handling the details to keep the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club involved in the FAR Scholarship program.

Ed, KB3IV and Steve, WU3I mentioned Don, WB3KOJ and Marty, WP4MSX have amateur radio equipment they are willing to donate to the Club. Thank you in advance of the deed Don and Marty.

Ed informs us that efforts are underway to reproduce the Club's license plate picture, taken during this years Field Day. The picture will soon be available in color, stay tuned to the Blurb additional information.

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Digital Net, net control stations Barry, K3EUI and Al, W3STW, has been in operation for a year. Al gave a few words of thanks to the Club, see the inside cover of the Blurb for net time and frequency.

Bill, W3AOK, says he is still receiving good reports on the reception of the Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System. Bill tells us the repeater control system has been upgraded, however, the repeater shack still needs a paint touch up. If you can help please contact Bill. Info is on the inside cover of the Blurb.

Ed reminds us that election time for Club Officers and Directors is here, a list of candidates will be read to the membership at the next general meeting. Offices up for election are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director(s). Members in good standing for the past year wanting to participate should contact Ed, contact info is on the inside cover of the Blurb.

Rounding out the business of the evening, from those of us that ate the refreshments, many thanks to the refreshment committee. Ed says, "Get on the bands, 10 meters is hot then turned the meeting over to Bill who presented a very interesting DVD of the effort expended in installing amateur radio on HMS The Queen Mary.

***Al, W3STW,
acting secretary***

A MODEST PROPOSAL

Save the *Blurb* – Save Phil-Mont’s Heritage

By Bob Thomas, W3NE

Before Facebook and blogs, before the internet (if you can remember that far back), and even before newspapers, the only way a person could propagate their ideas was to stand on a soapbox in the town square or self-publish a “pamphlet.” Pamphlets were short treatises used by politicians, radicals, poets and ordinary people to get their ideas out to fellow citizens. One of the most infamous pamphlets was published by Jonathan Swift in 1729. He called it, *A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People in Ireland From Being a Burden on Their Parents or Country and for the Making of Them Beneficial to the Publick*. Swift’s proposal, possibly satirical, was anything but modest; in fact it, was so inhumanly monstrous it is not going to be revealed here (check Google if you really want to know). The opening title of his pamphlet, however, continues to surface even today when someone wants to make a humble suggestion – like right now.

An active organization like Phil-Mont can accumulate a tremendous volume of records from its past accomplishments and the activities of members. It is called an *archive*, and boy, do we have an archive! Boxes and boxes full of old correspondence; meeting minutes; letters; photographs of just about every activity in which we participated; certificates and proclamations; crumbling newspaper and magazine articles; miscellaneous paraphernalia and “ephemera;” and back issues of the *Blurb*. This gigantic pile of club history has grown so big and diverse over our sixty-five year existence that it is now no simple matter to search for historic information simply because of the time required for rummaging through it. That is not a criticism of past or present dedicated Archivists who have devoted considerable effort to what has essentially been an “overhead” project subject to life’s changing priorities and responsibilities.

We go out on Field Day every year now. What was the club’s first F.D. like? We have been experiencing a dearth of candidates for office, not that the ones we have had did not do a great job in office, but multiple candidates for every office could lead to stimulating new directions, not to mention creating some suspense at election time. What were elections like in 1965? And finally, our not so recent 60th Anniversary Banquet was well attended and everybody seemed to have a great time, but that was it – nothing since then. What were social activities like in the ‘fifties and ‘sixties? Of course another question is, “Who cares?” That narrow view precludes possibilities for borrowing from the past to try something different today to encourage greater involvement in club administration, and to introduce social activities that could bring members and their families closer together. The problem is how to access that past without dumpster diving into a pile of historic rubble politely called an archive.

Here is the W3NE *Modest Proposal*:

There are numerous items in the archive that contribute to club history, but one, and only one, chronicles everything that has become the history of Phil-Mont, and that is the *Blurb*! Rescue all the *Blurbs* (and predecessor *TVI Retreat*) that can be found in the archive, arrange them in chronological order and we will have Phil-Mont’s comprehensive history in one compact location. Be satisfied with that basic initial step for now, and if time and resources are available, they might be scanned for a digital archive. However, that would require the daunting task of un-stapling, restoring, and scanning more than 5000 pages, based on an average of seven printed pages per month for sixty years, and assuming there is a complete file – something yet to be determined. Taking it one step at a time, we should try to accumulate all the *Blurbs* available, arrange them in a physical file, find and replace what’s missing, and then decide what to do next. What’s more modest than that?

The K7RA Solar Update

(Excerpts from ARRL website)

10/28/2011

Friday, October 21 -- the daily sunspot number broke another record for Solar Cycle 24 when it rose to 207. You have to look back to November 26, 2003 when it was two points higher -- 209 -- to find a number at least as high. But the average daily sunspot number for the week was off by two points to 156.6, while the average daily solar flux rose nearly 8 points to 151.8. How much higher will it go? The latest prediction shows sunspot activity peaking between February-July 2013, so there would seem to be plenty of opportunity for more daily sunspot readings of 207 and higher

Propagation on HF is quite exciting right now, with 10 meters opening up worldwide daily. Based on recent conditions, working the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest this weekend should offer plenty of fun. The latest predicted solar flux is 130 on October 28-31, 125 on November 1, 120 on November 2-5, then 125 and 130 for November 6-7 and 135 on November 8-10. Flux values for the near term are expected to peak at 165 on November 17-18. The predicted planetary A index is 7, 8, 10 and 10 on October 28-31 and 5 on October 31-November 3, 8 on November 4-5, 5 on November 6-10 and 8 on November 11-13. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions October 28, unsettled October 29, quiet to unsettled for October 30 and quiet October 31-November 3.

A week ago (October 21), we received this update from Jeff Hartley, N8II, of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and in the first part he was referring to the sunspot number reaching 195 the day before: "Whoo hoo! Actually, things sounded a bit better the two days prior to last night. It's fairly commonplace at 2100 to hear Japanese and Western European stations at the same time on 12 meters! I had a solid QSO (S5) with BG4AEC (China) running 100 W and a vertical on 10 meters SSB around 0015 on October 19, past the peak of propagation. It's hard to get much done because the

radio is too much of a draw! Unfortunately, the flooding in Southeast Asia seems to be keeping the rare countries (XV,XU,XZ) off the air. K3ZO is in Thailand but unable operate much because HS0AC is being used for emergency communications. Cars are being parked on bridges and upper levels of garages to avoid the flooding! I hear 9M6XRO almost daily on either 12 or 10 meters."

Speaking about the Draconids meteor shower, Jon Jones, N0JK, of Wichita, Kansas, wrote: "The Draconids would have been big news a year ago on VHF, but with all the F2 and TEP being worked on 6M this fall, it kind of puts the Draconids meteor shower on the back burner. One important 'lesson' from it is the astronomer's predictions of meteor shower outbursts are much better now and more accurate."

Speaking of Digital...

By Steve Ford, WB8IMY

There's a new HF digital mode in town and the gossip is flying!

I love RTTY. We have a warm relationship that goes back to my new-ham days in the early '70s when I was pounding green keys and reading conversations off rolls of yellow teletype paper. (Personal computer? What's that?) I jumped on the AMTOR bandwagon in the '80s and dabbled in CLOVER, G-TOR and PACTOR II in the '90s. Still, like most HF digital enthusiasts, I kept coming back to RTTY.

RTTY didn't have the error-free copy of the handshaking modes, and you certainly could not swap binary files using its limited code. But for contesting, DXpeditions and just casual conversation, RTTY was hard to beat. Unlike the 'TOR modes, you didn't have to worry about setting up handshaking links; type-and-transmit was the order of the day for RTTY. Conversations flowed easily and roundtable discussions (and nets) were possible. During digital contests and DX pileups,

RTTY became a mode of rapid-fire contacts. It wasn't as fast as phone, of course, but you could maintain a decent "rate."

No doubt you've noticed that I've been speaking of RTTY in the past tense. No, RTTY hasn't been tossed onto the ash heap of ham history--at least not yet. Something, however, has arrived that has the potential to knock RTTY out of the spotlight. That "something" is *PSK3*.

It's interesting to note that the CW identifier, which is a part of the PSK31 software currently available, is limited to the same spectrum width as the PSK31 signal itself. This means that the CW generated by the PSK31 program is actually narrower than average CW. In other words, it is completely free of key clicks!

Prometheus Unbound

PSK31 was the brainchild of Peter Martinez, G3PLX. If the call sign seems familiar, you might recall Peter as the father of AMTOR. Up until relatively recently, PSK31 was the favorite of a small cadre of experimenters who used DSP development kits to put the mode on the air. That was all well and good, but it kept PSK31 in the shadowy corners of our hobby where few knew it existed. Like Prometheus bringing fire to the mortals, however, Peter blew the doors wide open by creating a *Windows* version of PSK31 that did all of its DSP magic using ordinary 16-bit PC sound cards. (The gods haven't yet bound him to a rock and summoned an eagle to eat his liver, but that remains to be seen!)

Not content with creating PSK31 for *Windows*, Peter placed it on the Web for *free* distribution to the global ham community. Talk about blasphemy! This meant that any ordinary ham could download the software and become active on PSK31 almost immediately.

In an article that appeared in *RadCom*, the journal of the Radio Society of Great Britain, Peter explained why he developed PSK31. Simply put, he

wanted to create a mode that was as easy to use as RTTY, yet much more robust in terms of weak-signal performance. Another criteria was bandwidth. The HF digital subbands are narrow and tend to become crowded in a hurry (particularly during contests). Peter wanted to design a mode that would do all of its tricks within a very narrow bandwidth.

There's much more to read about the digital modes on the ARRL website! And tune in to the PMRC digital net on Tuesday nights on the club repeater.

For Sale

Optoelectronics FC-50 frequency counter,
ARRL handbooks 1933 - onward
Kreco 10 meter coaxial vertical antenna,
Antique headphones,
Multimeters,
and old technical books.

Contact Tom Bohlander WA3KLR

Contact Tom Bohlander WA3KLR, 215-536-1331

November at PMRC ...***It's Model RR Month!******2nd Wed Board Meeting******6th Sun W3STW NCS******Daylight Saving Time ends******8th Election Day******9th Wed General Meeting- Old Timers Night******11th Veterans Day******13th Sun N3OWM NCS******15th Clean your fridge day!******17th Thur VE session******20th Sun KB3IV NCS******24th Thanksgiving Day******27th Sun KB3SJV NCS***

And don't forget the **ARES** net every
 Sunday night at 2100L and the new **Digital**
Net Tuesdays at 1900L, both on W3QV/R

Check out this rope for your antenna project –***3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord******This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!******This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.******PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET******SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS******CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT******WU3I@ARRL.NET******First Class Mail***

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
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